

**BIG TUJUNGA WASH MITIGATION BANK
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 28, 2005
HANSEN YARD 7 – 9 P.M.**

I. Welcome / Introduction (P. McLaughlin, MIG)

1. Welcome
2. Review of agenda

II. Site Maintenance Issues and Discussion of Action Items (M. Chimienti, Public Works)

1. General Site Signage/Kiosks: The kiosk sign by the haul road was washed out during the winter storms and LADPW is going to try and pull it out of the wash. Provided the damage is not too extensive, the kiosk will be repaired and moved to the Wheatland entrance.
2. Tamayo Property: The purchase of the property is in the final phases. The paperwork is still at the Treasure Tax Collectors Office but has not yet made it onto the board agenda.
3. Website: The LADPW website is up and can be accessed at www.ladpw.org. It includes a link to the Tujunga Council site on the main page. To access the Big T site, click environmental and on the top right of the screen click on the Big T site. Chris Stone from LADPW requested feedback and recommendations from anyone visiting the site. Also, Mary Benson requested a list of wildlife, including photos, of the species found at Big T to be included on the website.
4. Unauthorized Overnight Campers: Patrols are been made on the site every weekend and updates can be found on the website. Public Works asked for feedback on the overnight camper situation. Barbara Tarnowski reported a new encampment on the hillside, which will be followed up on by the patrol.
Dan Holland sighted a Bronco near the ponds during one of his visits. The police were called but it is unknown if the person was cited. The gates were locked and it is unclear as to how the individual entered the site.
5. Trails: A few of the CAC members now feel that the use of trails signs is not a good idea. Mary Benson suggested landscaping trails through the North end of the site and that potential funds from the Foothill Bridge widening project from the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation may be available for this project. It will be discuss as to what to do with the trail signs that have already been made.
A trail clean-up day is planned for Saturday, July 23. Chambers Group and LADPW will lead groups of volunteers from the community to re-establish the trails by laying down wood chips and lining with rocks. Notices will be placed in community bulletins and flyers will be put up in the remaining cottonwood kiosk and at some of the local businesses.
6. Graffiti: Public Works' graffiti hotline number is (800) 675-4357. New graffiti is present under the freeway in the wash areas and needs to be removed.
7. Pond Crossing/Footbridge: The footbridge was washed out by the storms and unsuccessful attempts have been made to replace it. This will no longer be an action item. CAC members asked if the fencing around the ponds could be removed.
8. Water Quality Report: Montgomery Watson performed Water quality tests in April. The results have not yet been received but will be posted on the website once they are available.
9. Cottonwood Area as a Staging Area: This is was an action item raised by Terry Kaiser at the October meeting. LADPW has requested a proposal from Terry Kaiser but it has not been presented. If a proposal is not given then this will no longer be an action item.

10. Fencing: Fencing is not yet up by Radland due to questions regarding property lines. It has been suggested that the fencing be brought further in to the bank. Barbara Tarnowski reported a cut fence and a pole knocked over by the locked gate.
11. Cottonwood road: The cottonwood road was washed out by the storms and will be repaired by flood maintenance next week. The culvert by the erosion was painted green due to concerns about reflection.
12. Trash removal: Flood maintenance removed trash by Wentworth including part of a car. An encampment in that area was also cleaned out.

III. Current Status of Programs (S. Shaffer)

1. Exotic Plant Removal: A few sprouts of Arundo have been reported and will be removed as soon as possible. Some weed removal was accomplished in the upland area in the early part of the year but is not currently being done due to nesting birds in the area. CAC members asked that the debris from the plant removal around the ponds be removed from the area because it causes blockage to the pond flow. They also reported a problem with milk thistle along the trails and plastic silt fencing between the ponds and the cottonwood area that needs to be removed. Chambers Group will do these removals during site visits.
2. Riparian Habitat Restoration: All riparian plantings are doing well with the exception of the cottonwoods, which experienced low survivorship during the first years due to dry conditions. CAC members are concerned about a possible infestation of Argentinean ants on the cottonwood trees.
3. Upland Habitat Restoration: Weed removal was accomplished in this area prior to March and was halted due to nesting birds in the surrounding brush. CAC members are concerned about gophers in the area. If they become a problem, trapping will be used to remove them.
4. Exotic Wildlife Removal: Dan Holland accomplished exotic wildlife removal in the first quarter of the year. Tadpoles have been spotted in a small pool of water near the pond and there is some concern that they may be bullfrog tadpoles. Due to the size of the tadpoles, a positive identification cannot be made at this time so no removal of these tadpoles will be done. Cowbird trapping began on March 30 and the offsite traps have been very successful.
5. Wildlife Monitoring: Surveys for Least Bell's Vireo and Arroyo toad have already begun but neither species has been detected yet. Southwestern willow flycatcher surveys will begin in May.
6. Water Quality Analysis: The first quarter water quality analysis was done by Montgomery Watson earlier this month and the report will be available on the LADPW website as soon as it is received.
7. Trails Restoration: A trail restoration day is set for Saturday, July 23 and volunteers from the community will be asked to participate.

IV. Schedule Next CAC Meeting (P. McLaughlin)

1. A follow-up meeting to the April CAC meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on July 7 at the Hansen Yard. This will be a meeting with Public Works and will not include Chambers Group.
2. The next regularly scheduled CAC meeting is scheduled to take place on October 27, 2005. A meeting reminder will be mailed to all stakeholders with the meeting date, time and place.

**BIG TUJUNGA WASH MITIGATION BANK
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
INVESTIGATION AND ACTION LIST**

Action Items from the April 28, 2005 CAC Meeting

Item	Follow-up	Comments/Status
1. General Site Signage/Kiosks	Public Works & Chambers Group	The Wheatland kiosk was destroyed along with the haul road during the January 2005 storms. Public Works will attempt to remove the kiosk from the wash and repair it if possible. It will be relocated to the road near the Wheatland gate.
2. Tamayo Property	Public Works	Purchase has been sent to Board for approval by TTC. It has not yet made the Board's agenda.
3. Website	Public Works	The LADPW website is up and running at www.ladpw.org . Feedback and recommendations are requested.
4. Unauthorized Overnight Campers	Public Works & LA Homeless Services Authority	Unauthorized overnight encampments are a constant issue at the mitigation bank. An encampment has been identified on the hillside and will be reported the patrol team.
5. Trail Signage	Chambers Group & CAC Members	Chambers Group has been coordinating with Terry Kaiser to make and install the trail signs. A few of the CAC members now feel that the use of signs along the trails is not a good idea. LADPW will discuss the issue and decide what to do with the signs that have already been made.
6. Graffiti	Public Works	Public Works graffiti hotline number is (800) 675-4357. Graffiti continues to be observed.
7. Water Quality Analysis	Public Works & Chambers Group	MWH Conducted first quarter sampling at the beginning of April and the results will be made available on the LADPW website as soon as they are received.
9. Trails Monitoring	Public Works, Flood Maintenance & Chambers Group	Some trails were washed out during the winter storms; a trail re-establishment day is scheduled for July 23 and will include volunteers from the community.
10. Cottonwood Area as a Staging Area	Public Works & CAC Members	Terry Kaiser raised this action item in anticipation of using the area near the Cottonwood Entrance as a horse trailer staging area in the event of a major fire. No proposal has been received by LADPW.
11. Fencing	Public Works	Fencing is to be installed near Radland but may require moving the fence onto the site due to questions regarding property lines
12. Cottonwood Road	Public Works & Flood Maintenance	The road near the Cottonwood gate was washed out by storms and will be repaired by Flood Maintenance in early May.

October 2005

Dear CAC Member:

RE: Big Tujunga Wash Mitigation Bank Community Advisory Committee Meeting

We would like to report the status of the habitat restoration and site monitoring efforts from the summer and discuss upcoming activities. We have attached the list of action items discussed at the previous meeting. Some of the issues we have discussed include:

- Unauthorized overnight campers
- Trails
- Water quality

We would like to remind you of the next meeting:

DATE: Thursday October 27, 2005

TIME: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Hansen Yard
10179 Glenoaks Boulevard
Sun Valley, CA 91352

Again, we would like to remind you that each of the participating community organizations was invited to provide two representatives to serve on the CAC. Because our space for the meeting is limited, we would appreciate it if you would please only send two members.

Just a reminder, this will be our final CAC meeting and we look forward to seeing you there. Please find enclosed (1) the agenda for the October 27, 2005 meeting and (2) a list summarizing action items from the previous CAC meeting on April 28, 2005. If you have changes to your address or would like to be removed from the CAC mailing list, please contact Ms. Shannan Shaffer via e-mail at sshaffer@chambersgroupinc.com.

Sincerely,

Shannan Shaffer
Associate Wildlife Biologist
Chambers Group, Inc.

Enc.